

Pinckney (family)

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The Pinckney family played a leading role in the politics of South Carolina and the nation during and after the American Revolution. After being educated in England, Eliza Lucas Pinckney, b. Antigua, c.1722, d. 1793, went to South Carolina, where she managed large plantations and introduced indigo cultivation in the South. She married Charles Pinckney; their sons had distinguished military careers during the Revolution and both became leading Federalists. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, b. Charleston, Feb. 25, 1746, d. Aug. 16, 1825, was appointed minister to France in 1796, but the French refused to receive him. In 1804 and 1808 he was the unsuccessful Federalist presidential candidate. Thomas Pinckney, b., Charleston, Oct. 23, 1750, d. Nov. 2, 1828, was governor of South Carolina (1787-89) and minister to Great Britain (1792-95). As special envoy to Spain he negotiated (1795) the Treaty of San Lorenzo, known as Pinckney's Treaty, which opened the Mississippi to American navigation. He served in the House of Representatives (1797-1801) and held the rank of major general during the War of 1812.

Thomas Pinckney's son Henry Laurens Pinckney, b. Charleston, Sept. 24, 1794, d. Feb. 3, 1863, was a prominent newspaper editor in Charleston and a leading champion of nullification. He was a member of Congress (1833-37) and for many years mayor of Charleston. A second cousin of Charles Cotesworth and Thomas Pinckney, Charles Pinckney, b. Charleston, Oct. 26, 1757, d. Oct. 29, 1824, was the youngest member of the Constitutional Convention of 1787. As minister to Spain (1802-05) he persuaded the Spanish government to recognize the Louisiana Purchase. An ardent Jeffersonian Republican, he led the fight against the Missouri Compromise in Congress.

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